Photo History

From June 2025

(Volume 192)

Cover Picture **Regent Street in September 2008**

When will the weather change to 'summer mode' It is warmish but wet and we still wear anoraks or take umbrellas when we go out. The lawn is growing rapidly, but alas, so are the weeds. Lots of our regular commitments, have been put on hold as firstly Lynn felt 'under the weather' then later, so did I. Symptoms, were flu-like with headaches, extreme lethargy and shivering. Decided to try two of our remaining covid test and , yes, we were both positive. Cancelled swim, Lynn's daily run, our Park Run and our friends lunch here for Sunday. Chis will hopefully pop by with a couple of her test kits so perhaps it will soon be clear. Forced to stay home ... Read books, garden, sit in the sun and rest...guess, when I read this, it's not really so bad.

Well, it lasted around a week and we both felt fine (after the initial couple of days) so we went out but well away from people. Walking and picnicking in the country and the weather got hot so, all in all, it wasn't a problem.

We enjoyed a madrigal recital on the bank of the New River (see photos) and I led a walk from Great Amwell to Stanstead Abbots and back along the river from St. Margarets.

Today . The end of June. We have tidied the garden as friends are coming for lunch and the weather seems set for outdoor eating. Lynn helps me in the garden and together we are slowly changing it.

I am reading a book of old photos and realized that photography is not such an old feature of life and the earliest photos were around 1825...only 200 years ago, From my box camera to the SLR camera, and on to Polaroids, 35 mm cameras and now digital cameras and seemingly I am old fashioned as phone cameras are now so sophisticated and easily usable.

I think that I had a foresight in originally putting all by old photos in albums and the when the digital age hit me, I adopted it very early on and continued as Photo History in my home-printed and collated spiral book format. Finding photos were a major problem and I realised that if I set up an index with relevant words describing my photos (called 'tagging') , I could then use the 'Word search facility' to instantly identify where they could be found. This is a pretty daunting task but I am well into it now and the plus side is seeing photos that are long forgotten.

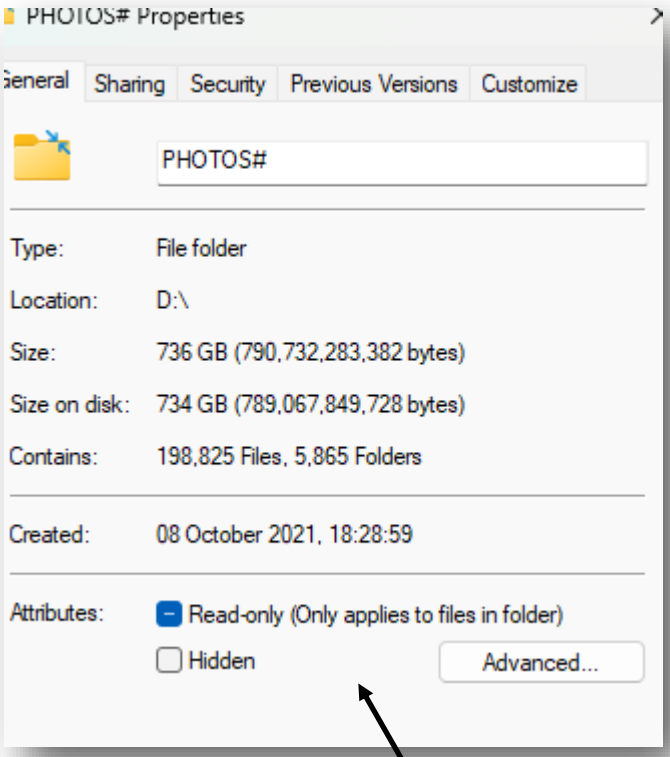
Friend Sue wanted a video of David, her late husband; which she had lost, and I found it almost immediately and this gave her a lot of pleasure. Also when I 'turn up' old photos of friends, I email or Whatsapp them across, always getting a very positive response.

I wonder if these Photo History Volumes will be interesting to future generations...I do hope so.

I am in the process of compiling a new Photo Book (It's A Great World# 5) and using a selection of my photos should be easy ....I just had the computer calculate the total of my photos and as you can see there is a massive number of almost 200,000 to choose from and that's without my 61 albums of negative photos and thousands of videos...

"Told you I can bore for Britain"

We have had a very hot spell in the UK and this seems reflected throughout the world and reinforces my conviction that global warming and climate change is already well established and people that constantly say this is not true must be totally unaware of all the signs that are so obvious.



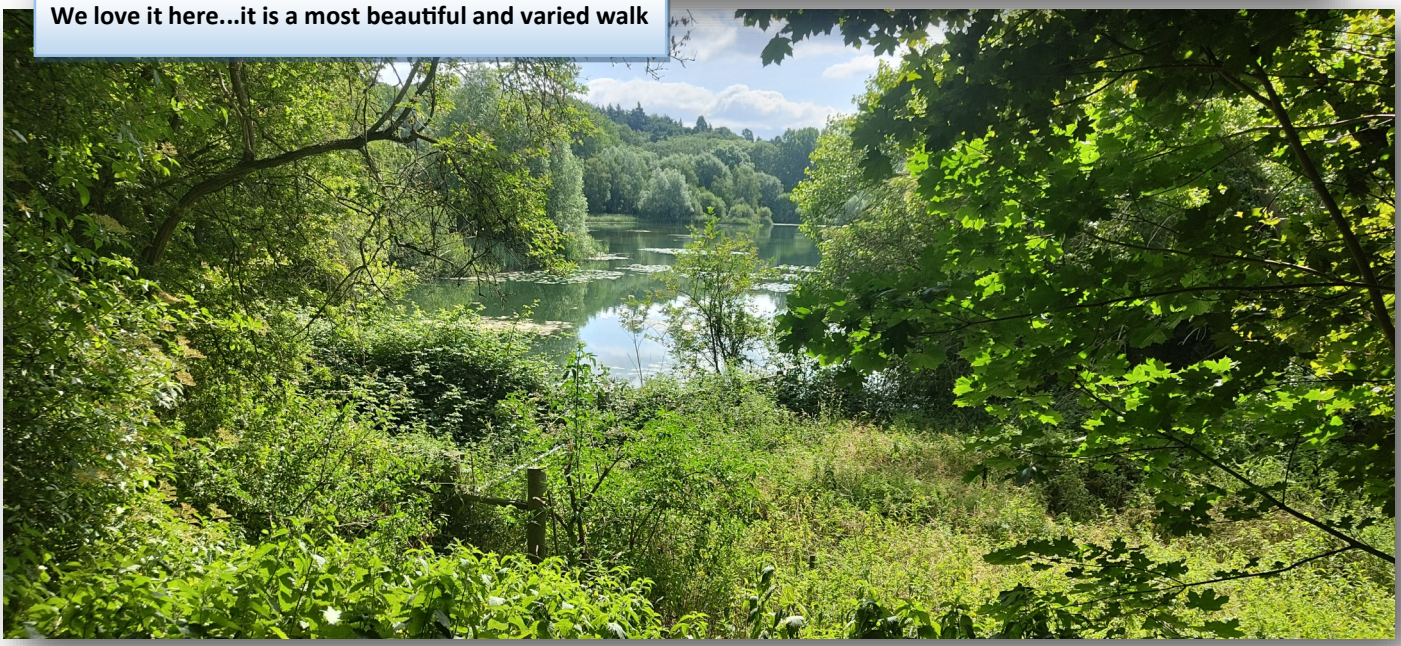
The above screenshot shows my total photo content on one of my backups

In June'25 we enjoyed a great lunch with fun company at Judy and Gordon's

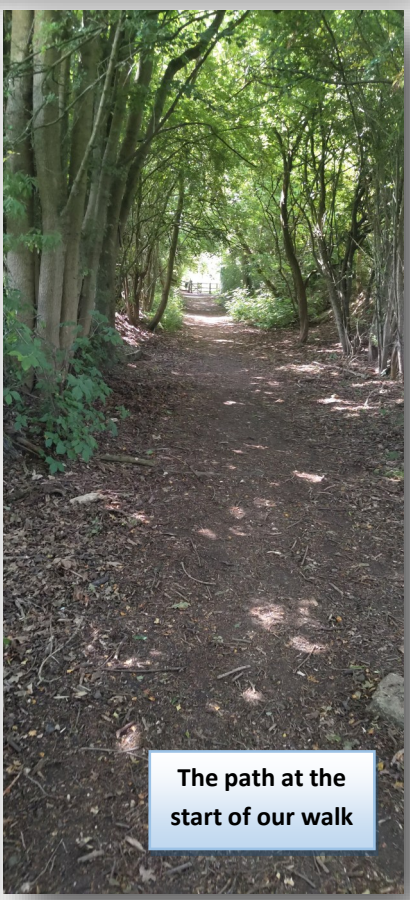
Lynn and I had to do the recce for my 'Lads Walk' so decided to have an Amwell picnic along our route in June '25

A favourite spot for bird watchers with the hides across the water

We love it here...it is a most beautiful and varied walk



The River Lee Navigation



The path at the start of our walk

Bird Identification Information

Photo History

Along the walk are many information boards

It is an ideal time to see both dragon and damsel flies

The shallow lakes seem to attack many species and they can be viewed from the board walks

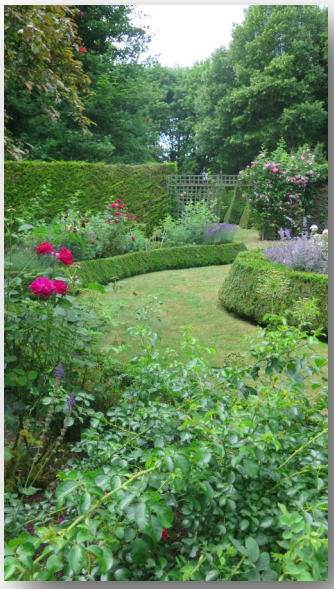
The footpath crosses the River Ash at one point and logs have been chained along its course to slow the flow and prevent flash floods and also to encourage fish and biodiversity

This is our favourite picnic spot, at the top of a slope above the valley and river below. The old trees provide shelter and are a super spot to relax

When we parked at Great Amwell (the spring source of The New River) we saw this flyer for a Madrigal Choir. We went back a few days later and saw the choir on the island under the weeping willows at sunset

It was wonderful.

The choir walked over the bridge and as it got dark, the music and the reflections in the water were memorable



Gotcha Gardens ...a lovely country garden we visited in June'25

Memories

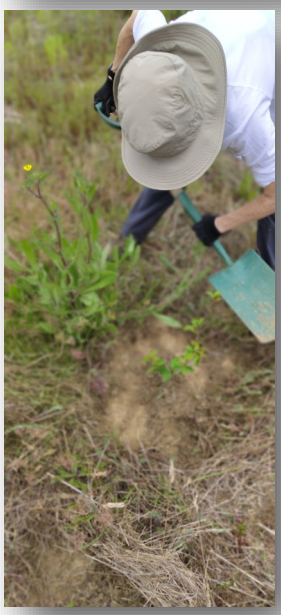
Over the years one has many roles and looking back I found these cards all scattered in various places… had I known then what I know now!

At the end of June'25, the weather was very hot and to assist the tree survival on The Enfield Chase a mulching programme was initiated

After meeting at Rectory Road Farm, we filled bags with the wood chip mulch, loaded them onto the Mini Moke trailer and took them to the far field

The new ponds were very depleted

It looks barren at the moment but this will be future woodland



Once the surviving saplings were located, a circle around them was cleared and the mulch was then spread in a 'donut'. This prevents weed suffocation and at the same time retains any available moisture

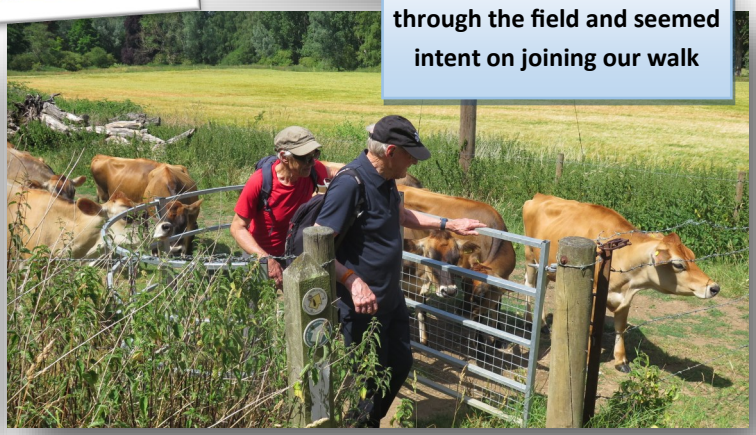
A well earned break in one of the new rest areas

June '25. Our swimmer's coffee morning at Redford's

After the earlier 'recce' I did with Lynn, the 'Lads' Walk' was a great success

This walk was so different to our 'town' walks

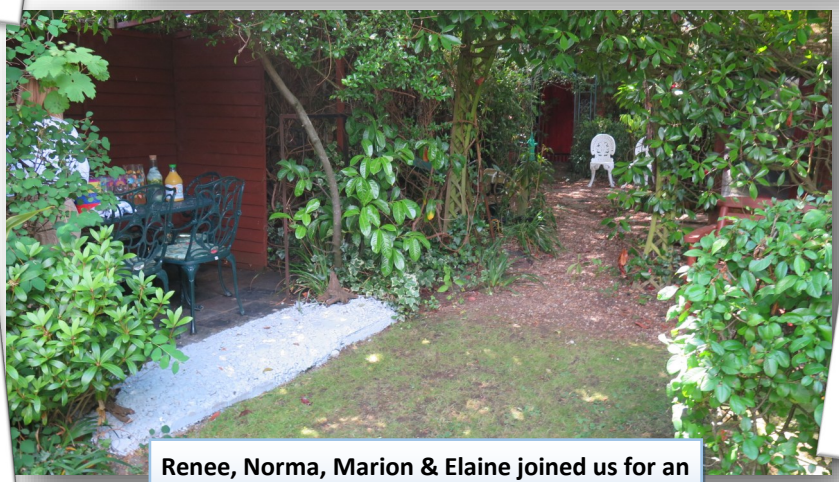
This small herd of small beautiful cows followed us all through the field and seemed intent on joining our walk



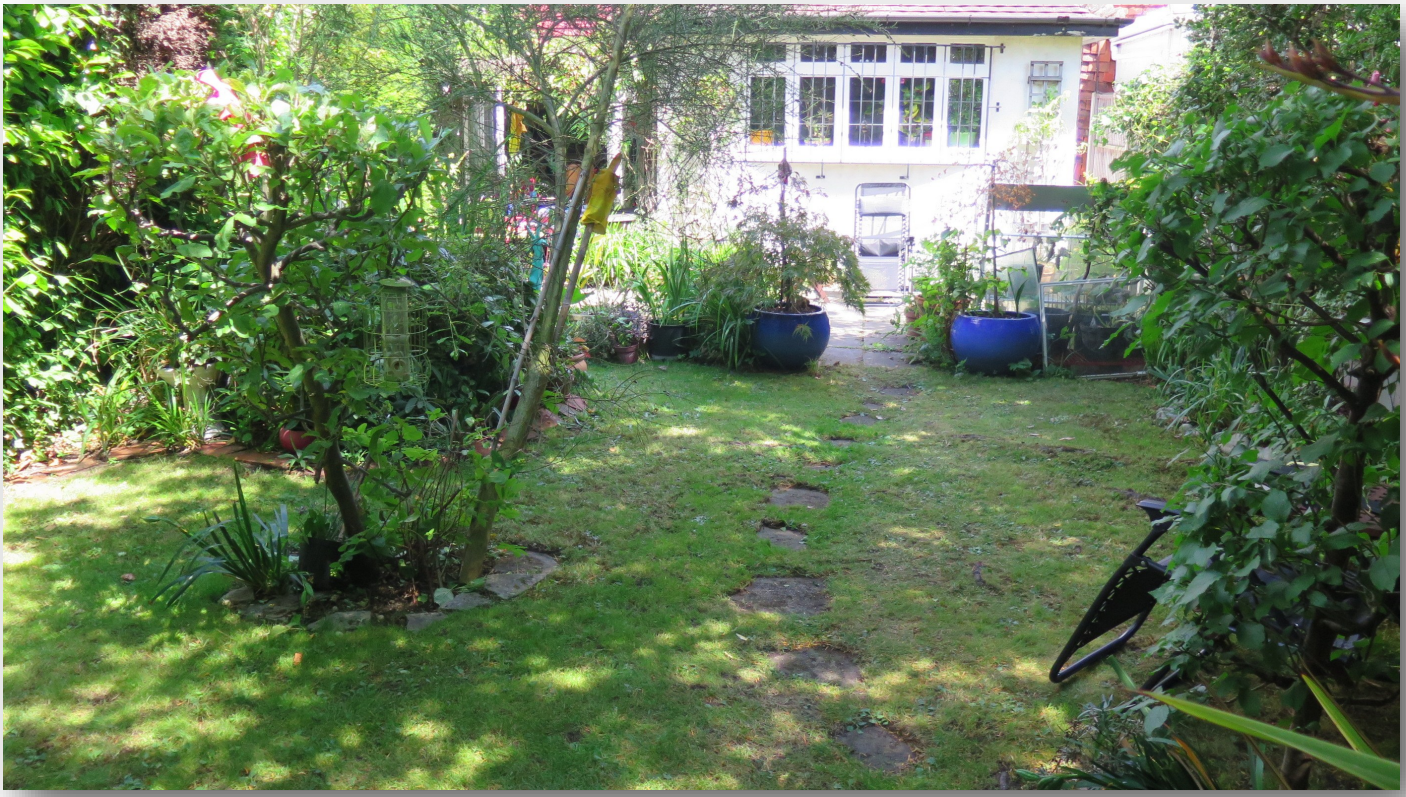
Some great sights along the walk

...but the favourite sight was at the end of the walk..the pub where lunch and drinks greeted us

Even when trees are dead they retain a magic beauty



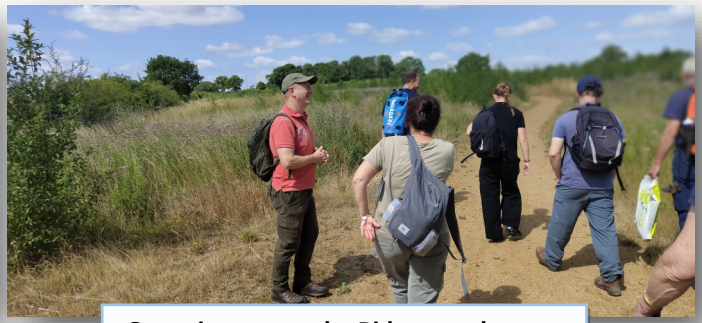
Renee, Norma, Marion & Elaine joined us for an afternoon lunch in the garden in June'25



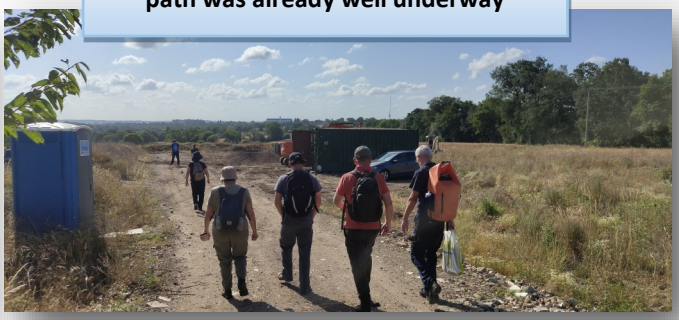
Lynn, the perfect hostess as always

On July 8th '25 we met at Botany Bay Farm to walk the new paths (some still under construction) and along the way carried out an existing woodland survey . These shots should be really interesting in years to come when the saplings are developing into mature trees and when the walks are filled with people enjoying the views and freedom. That will make all our volunteering so worthwhile

We met at Botany Bay Farm where the new parking area was being constructed



Opposite, across the Ridgeway the new path was already well underway

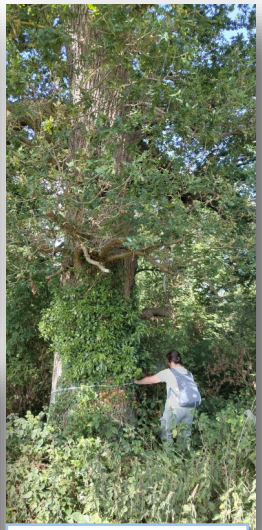


This large are will look so different in years to come. Botany Bay Cricket club on the left and Crews Hill Golf Club further along (also on the left)

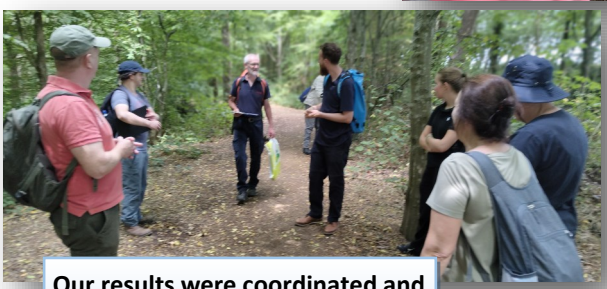
The path crosses Turkey brook which (due to the very hot weather) is currently just a trickle

Photo History

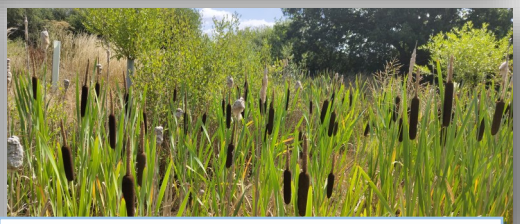
The survey of the established woodland included canopy cover, evidence of rabbits, voles, deer and human with dog egress etc



Lily measuring the girth of a wonderful old oak



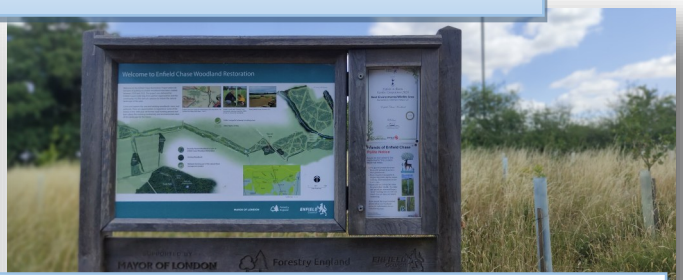
Our results were coordinated and noted for future comparisons



The ponds and scrapes were currently dry but still maintained the bullrushes etc

We then followed the new path to Rectory Road Farm (where we normally park)

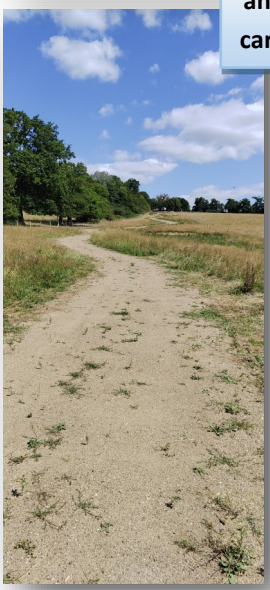
The new path then crosses diagonally and we crossed the Ridgeway at the new safe crossing point that we were instrumental in having built by The Old Enfield Chase Hotel (now demolished)



The path here is already established and every time we come here we see cyclists, dog walkers and many people enjoying, what I consider to be the most beautiful valley walk. And many of our trees are doing well here

This page shows the end of our circular walk. The ponds and gullies will feed into one another slowing potential flood water and at the same time filtering the water by virtue of the pond plants that are slowly establishing. The water then enters the brook at the bottom of the valley

Heavy plant has established the new winding path and new ponds and scrapes and gullies. This part is not yet open to the public and a car park and family rest area is being constructed by the farm



Here one can see some of our early plantings already established

Yes, I know I have gone on and on about this whole project but I feel this is possibly the first time I have seen all the various sections we have worked at over many years coming together and I feel very proud that I am one of a great band of volunteers having achieved a heritage for the future

Elaine is a school friend of Lynn's and celebrated her 80th at Fredericks at the Angel Islington. We still have menus from there in 1991. And it is still great

An Original Fredericks Menu from one of my Menu Collection books

...however, maybe the prices have increased a little!

9TH MAY 1991 ~ 22ND MAY 1991

9TH MAY 1991

Executive Head Chef
Jean-Louis Pollet
Chef de Cuisine
Régis Patté

STARTERS

Potage du Jour £2.35
A seasonal vegetable soup

Champignons Frédérick's £3.45
Deep fried breadcrumbed mushrooms served with tartare sauce

Asperges au Beurre d'Orange £3.95
Asparagus served with a creamy butter sauce scented with orange

Montgolfiére de Crabe £3.45
Creamy crab soup, crab meat & shredded vegetables baked with a puff pastry top

Moules Farcies aux Epinards £4.15
Large mussels baked with garlic & spinach butter

Fantaisie de Saumon £4.65
Smoked salmon mousse served with marinated salmon

Fettucines aux Poireaux £3.45
Fettucines in cream with leek, ham & gruyère cheese

Fondant de Chèvre sur Salade £3.95
Goat's cheese baked in pastry with apple, served with salad leaves & walnut dressing

Melon au Sorbet de Framboise £4.65
Melon with raspberry sorbet

Feuilleté de Crabe et Crevettes £4.25
Layers of prawns, crab & puff pastry served with a creamy herb sauce

FISH

Flétan au Gratin de Moules £8.65
Halibut steak glazed with a mussel & herb velouté

Petite Sole Poëlée au Citron Vert £8.95
Pan fried lemon sole served with a tangy lime butter

Dos de Saumon au Beurre d'Agrumes £8.95
Salmon fillet steamed with orange peels & served with a mild citrus sauce

St. Jacques à l'Etouffée £9.15
Scollops cooked in their shells with shredded vegetables & mushrooms, served with a creamy butter sauce

POULTRY & GAME

Lapin Bourguignon £8.75
Rabbit marinated & simmered in red wine, served with button onions, bacon & mushrooms

Pigeon aux Marrons £7.95
Wood pigeon breasts served with a port sauce, chestnuts, cranberries & herbs

Blanc de Volaille au Poivre £7.95
Grilled chicken breast served with a creamy pepper sauce

Suprême de Pintadeau aux Mûres £8.95
Stuffed guinea foul breast, roasted & served with a blackberry sauce

Prices include VAT.
A 15% service charge is included in your bill.

22ND MAY 1991

Restaurant Manager
Jesus Aldonio

MEAT

Rôti du Jour £8.95
A roast dish from the carving trolley

Foie de Veau à l'Ail £8.75
Grilled calves liver & bacon served with a creamy garlic sauce

Côte à l'Os Grillée aux Herbes £9.45
Rib steak grilled with Provence herbs & served with tomato concassie & French fries

Filet de Porc Carême £8.95
Pork fillets studded with garlic, roasted & served with a creamy mushroom sauce with a dash of brandy

Côte de Veau Glacée Carbonara £10.65
Pan fried veal glazed with shredded ham & gruyère cheese, served with a rich pesto sauce

Côte d'Agneau au Fondant de Chèvre £8.75
A duo of lamb cutlets grilled with a mild goat's cheese & served with a wild mushroom flan

Carré d'Agneau au Poivre Vert (2 persons - 35 mins) £23.00
Rack of lamb roasted with green peppercorns, served with gratin dauphinois & a medley of vegetables

VEGETARIAN

Oeufs Mollets Florentine £7.95
Soft boiled eggs with a rich cheese sauce, served on a bed of spinach with new potatoes & mange tout

Trio de Mousses aux Asperges £7.95
Carrot, cauliflower & spinach mousses, served with asparagus & mixed salad leaves

ORGANIC DISHES

These meats are organically reared and produced from the Highlands of Scotland on farm soil that carries the highly coveted soil association 'organic symbol'. A selection of organically grown vegetables are included in the price.

Rumpsteak Grillé aux Herbes £12.65
Grilled rumpsteak served with a herb butter

Chevreuil aux Marrons £12.65
Pan fried venison served on a port sauce with chestnuts

Selection of Vegetables £2.50
A selection of two vegetables and one potato dish

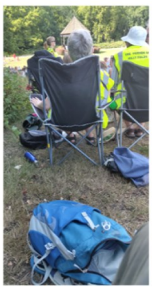
Salads £2.30
Prepared to your order

The management invites you to visit our kitchens.
The Manager will be pleased to
make the necessary arrangements.

The 'After Park Run' coffee gathering locally

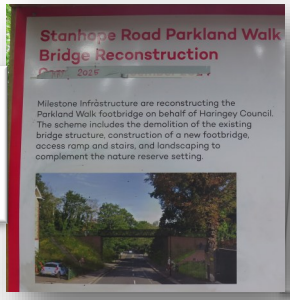
13 July: Ukulele Ska Collective - Ska

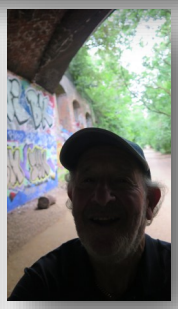
A sunny afternoon with Tobs, Wendy and local friends enjoying the music and our picnics

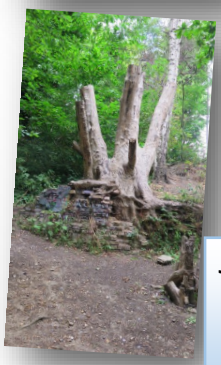


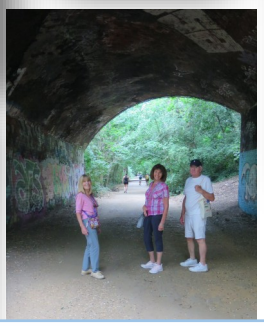
Another 'mulching' day in the same field .

It is so rewarding when you see a bamboo cane and moving the weeds aside and finding a small sapling valiantly clinging to life. This is then aided with the mulch surround in a 'donut' style









July '25. We walked along the disused rail track from Finsbury Park to Highgate with Evie & Jimmie

I think I mentioned earlier that I am slowly selecting old photos from my vast collection for my latest hard-back book but I thought some of the photos could be in these pages as well.. I love them and hope you enjoy them too

Off Licence
OPEN TILL LATE
TAYLOR QUALITY MEATS
CAFE OPEN
Walls
R89 TBK

A GREAT WAY TO LIVE

...and lastly, one of my favourites

Mid July '25 and hopefully another volume that will be a lasting collection of life as we know it